



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION
WITH JAN-FEB 2014 ARTICLES

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In-Depth Reports



Nuclear Disarmament, the State of Play

NEW YORK - If psychosis is a loss of contact with reality, the current status of nuclear disarmament can best be described as psychotic. On the one hand, the nuclear issue is beginning to creep out from under the rug where it has lain dormant for several decades. On the other hand, the commitment of the nuclear weapon states to a nuclear weapons-free world is honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

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Peace Forum At UN Pleads For Nuke Abolition

NEW YORK - The UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser has expressed deep concern about “the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to international peace and security”. Launching the book titled A Forum for Peace and opening a discussion on Global Citizenship and the Future of the United Nations at the UN headquarters in New York, he also stressed the importance of the culture of peace. ➤ Pages 4-5



Abolitionists Want to Set a Deadline for Nuclear Ban

NUEVO VALLARTA, Mexico - Countries in favour of nuclear disarmament have reached the point where they are ready to set a date for the start of formal negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons, a decision that could be taken in Austria at the end of this year. This was the general sense at the close on Friday Feb. 14 of the two-day Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in the tourist centre of Nuevo Vallarta in western Mexico. Delegates from 146 nations and over 100 non-governmental organisations from all over the world were in attendance. ➤ Pages 6-7



Nuclear Weapons Leave Unspeakable Legacy

NUEVO VALLARTA, Mexico - For decades, Yasuaki Yamashita kept secret his experiences as a survivor of the nuclear attack launched by the United States on the Japanese city of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. Yamashita, a 74-year-old artist who settled in Mexico in 1968, broke his silence in 1995 and told the story of what happened that morning to change the fate of Nagasaki and of the whole world. ➤ Pages 8-9



Nuke Summit Agenda Circumvents Armed Powers

When over 50 world leaders meet in the Netherlands next month for a Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), the primary focus will be on a politically-loaded question: how do we prevent non-state actors and terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear weapons or nuclear materials? But sceptical anti-nuclear activists and academics pose an equally serious, but long ignored, question: how do you prevent the use of nukes by the eight countries that already possess the devastating weapon of mass destruction (WMD). ➤ Pages 10-11

A Manufactured Nuclear Crisis

WASHINGTON - The subtitle of Gareth Porter's new book, “The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare,” is well-chosen. Large parts of “A Manufactured Crisis” are indeed untold till now. They amount to what the author terms an “alternative narrative”. But don't be misled by “alternative”. This is not the work of some crank who imagines conspiracies where none exist. One senses, rather, from the author's meticulous sourcing and the extent of his research that what motivates him is a fierce hunger for truth and aversion to deceit. ➤ Pages 12-13

What Others Say

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Nuclear Disarmament, The State of Play

By PETER WEISS*

NEW YORK (IPS) - If psychosis is a loss of contact with reality, the current status of nuclear disarmament can best be described as psychotic. On the one hand, the nuclear issue is beginning to creep out from under the rug where it has lain dormant for several decades. On the other hand, the commitment of the nuclear weapon states to a nuclear weapons-free world is honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

Let us begin by adding up the pluses and the minuses of nuclear disarmament.

On the plus side, we have a president of the United States, which is central to the problem, who has spoken out repeatedly on the subject, albeit in a decelerating mode. In a speech at Purdue University on Jun. 16, 2008, he said, "It's time to send a clear message to the world: America seeks a world without nuclear weapons ... we'll make the goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons a central element in our nuclear policy."

There was no reference to how long it might take. A year later, in the famous Prague speech of May 6, 2009, Obama said,

"I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons", but he added, "This goal will not be reached quickly – perhaps not in my lifetime."

He was 48 at the time. Four years later, on Jun. 19, 2013, in Berlin, Obama said, "Peace with justice means pursuing the security of a world without nuclear weapons – no matter how distant that dream may be."

In all fairness, the trajectory to abolition announced in Prague has either been implemented or blocked through no fault of the president: A substantial reduction in nuclear arms has been negotiated with Russia and the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. security strategy has been lessened.

The ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the negotiation of a Fissile Materials Treaty, both of which the Obama administration favours, have been held up, one by the U.S. Senate, the other by another country.



But reduction is not elimination and the Defence Department (DOD) and Department of Energy continue to pursue policies that are clearly incompatible with nuclear disarmament, to wit:

The Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States, issued by the DOD on Jun. 19, 2013, states that nuclear weapons will be used only in extreme circumstances, but that it is too early to limit their employment strictly to deterrence.

The Assessment of Nuclear Monitoring and Verification Technologies, released by the Defence Science Board in January 2014, concedes that for the

first time since the beginning of the nuclear age the United States needs to be concerned not only with horizontal proliferation, i.e. to countries not possessing nuclear weapons, but also with vertical proliferation, i.e. in nuclear weapons countries.

But the 100-page report makes no reference to monitoring and verification requirements in a nuclear weapons free world.

On Feb. 6, in an apparent violation of at least the spirit if not the letter of the Nonproliferation Treaty, the U.S. announced that it had conducted a successful impact test (not involving an explosion) of the B-61 nuclear bomb. Donald Cook, deputy administrator for defence at DOD, said that engineering on the new bomb had commenced and that this would make it possible to replace older models "by the mid or late 2020s"

Thus, U.S. policy on nuclear disarmament is at best a mixed bag; that of the other eight nuclear armed powers is not much better. .

*Peter Weiss is President Emeritus of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy [<http://lcnp.org>]



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Now for the good news. Last year saw more encouraging action by non-nuclear powers than most previous years:

- In February the Foreign Ministry of Germany, a member of NATO, hosted a Forum on Creating the Conditions and Building a Framework for a Nuclear Weapons Free World, convened by the Middle Powers Initiative. It was attended by 26 governments and a number of civil society organisations.
- In March, the Foreign Ministry of Norway, another NATO country, convened in Oslo a Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, attended by 128 governments, and numerous civil society organisations.
- On Oct. 21, Ambassador Dell Higgie of New Zealand delivered to the First Committee of the U.N. the statement adopted by 125 countries, many of whom had attended the Oslo conference. It declared that the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is through their total elimination.
- A Governmental Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament met for the first time in May in Geneva and produced in August a report to the General Assembly which outlined a variety of approaches to reaching nuclear disarmament, including a section on the role of international law.
- Also for the first time, on Sep. 26, the General Assembly held a high level meeting on nuclear disarmament in which

country after country, represented by Presidents, Foreign Ministers and other high officials, called for prompt and effective progress toward a nuclear weapons free world.

- Finally, and most importantly, during the follow up conference to Oslo held in Nayarit, Mexico, Feb. 13 and 14, Sebastian Kurz, the foreign minister of Austria, announced that he would convene a conference in Vienna later this year because “the international nuclear disarmament efforts require an urgent paradigm shift.”

The Vienna conference will not be simply a third rehearsal of the unspeakable horrors of nuclear weapons. It will get down to serious business, perhaps even the commencement of drafting a convention banning the use and possession of these weapons, as suggested by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

But there is a problem: The countries which have nuclear weapons have boycotted both Oslo and Nayarit. What if they boycott Vienna as well? That is the question. It is also the challenge facing the growing anti-nuclear weapons community, both official and unofficial. Embarrassment can be a tool of diplomacy.

The Nonproliferation Treaty, to which the nuclear powers pay lip service, requires good faith efforts by all states to achieve a nuclear weapons free world. This is a good time to remind the nuclear states, and particularly the big five, of that all important obligation. (IPS – February 25, 2014) □

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/02/op-ed-nuclear-disarmament-state-play/>

Translations

Japanese Text Version

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/217-nuclear-disarmament-the-state-of-play-japanese>

| 視点 | 核軍縮の現状 (ピーター・ワイス核政策法律家委員会名誉会長)

【ニューヨークIPS=ピーター・ワイス】

もし精神病というものが現実との接点を失うことだとしたら、核軍縮の現状はまさに精神病と言えるだろう。

一方で核問題は、数十年にわたる休眠状態から表舞台へと徐々に現れつつある。他方で「核兵器なき世界」への核兵器国のコミットメントは、遵守というよりも違反としてとらえられている。

まずは、核軍縮に関する前進点と後退点を挙げることから始めてみよう。

前進点では、核軍縮問題の中心である米国において、(徐々にトーンが落ちてきてはいるが) この問題に繰り返し言及している大統領がいる。2008年6月16日にパデュー大学で行った講演でバラク・オバマ上院議員(当時は民主党大統領候補)は、「世界に対して、米国は核兵器なき世界を目指すとの明確なメッセージを送る時が来ました。...私たちは、核兵器廃絶という目標を核政策の中心的要素としたい。」と語った。



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Peace Forum At UN Pleads For Nuke Abolition

By JAMSHED BARUAH

NEW YORK (IDN) - The UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser has expressed deep concern about “the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to international peace and security”. Launching the book titled *A Forum for Peace* and opening a discussion on *Global Citizenship and the Future of the United Nations* at the UN headquarters in New York, he also stressed the importance of the culture of peace.

The book incorporates the proposals made by Daisaku Ikeda, President of the Tokyo-based Soka Gakkai International (SGI), to the United Nations over the past 30 years. Themes discussed include the need for abolition of nuclear weapons, global education and human interconnectedness with the environment. The event was sponsored by the UNAOC and organised by Soka Gakkai International (SGI), Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research (Tokyo and Honolulu) on February 20, 2014.



the event. “No human being in the world history has written so consistently and so substantively about the work of the U.N.,” he said, adding that many of Ikeda’s proposals, including the empowerment of women and young people in creating peace, have been reflected in the way the global body operates.

Chowdhury pointed out that Ikeda’s concept of the ‘Culture of Peace’ is essential to make the world a secure place for future generations, by promoting peace through dialogue and nonviolence.

The Institute’s director Olivier Urbain, who edited the book, said he was impressed by Ikeda’s firm belief in the power of ordinary people and his trust in the potential of solidarity. Ikeda’s promotion for a world without war does not stop with abolishing actual nuclear warheads, but it also deals with the mentality behind the fact that the world still have these weapons, Urban said.

Al-Nasser pointed out that peace and dialogue is also the business of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. “The peaceful and prosperous co-existence of people and nations is the cornerstone of the United Nations mission. We are bound together as the international community in the belief that – despite different cultures, languages and religions, there are fundamental shared values and principles that underpin our humanity,” he said.

“It’s not possible to build one’s happiness on the misery of another human being. The same thing with countries: it is not possible to build true lasting national security on the misery and terror of other countries that are so terrified by the weapon,” he added.

“We are bound together as the UN family because we recognize that it is through the celebration of our diversity, as well as through the promotion of tolerance and dispelling fears of the ‘other’, that we will build more peaceful world. And we are bound together because we understand that the citizens of world share common problems that require global solutions. This is where ‘the abolition of nuclear weapons’ and Global Citizenship Education come to play,” the UN High Representative for the AOC added.

Notwithstanding conflicts and threats around the world, Urbain said there was “a tremendous sense of hope” when he read the book. “As long as we have the space for personal creativity and solidarity, there is nothing that human beings cannot overcome,” he added. The UN, therefore, needs to create channels and mechanisms for people’s voices to be heard and, in so doing, let itself be empowered by the people.

“The International Community regardless of cultural differences has often expressed deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to international peace and security, Al-Nasser told a gathering of diplomats, journalists, academicians and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

“This is the book that really needs to be read by all of us,” said Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, who chaired

Photo (Left to Right): UN High Representative for the UNAOC, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser; Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative; 1976 Nobel Laureate Betty Williams. Credit: UNAOC/Aaron Fineman



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The UN Member States had stated in the “outcomes of Disarmament Machinery” that mankind is confronting an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from massive and competitive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced. “It goes without saying,” he added, “that the non-peaceful use of nuclear power poses a serious threat to humanity exacerbated by the proliferation of these weapons.”

Against this backdrop, the majority of Member States had repeatedly reaffirmed that “the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons”.

This, in their view, should be followed by “a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear weapons states”.

Al-Nasser recalled the advisory opinion on July 8, 1996 of the ICJ (The International Court of Justice) on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons. The ICJ said that there is no specific authorization of the threat or use of nuclear weapons in the conventional law and that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law.

“I believe that ultimately one of the highest priority of the International Community is nuclear disarmament,” the UN High Representative said.

Global Citizenship Education

Moving to Global Citizenship Education (GCE) which is also interconnected to the culture of peace, Al-Nasser explained: “if the culture of peace is to take deeper root in us

and among us then we should reach out more effectively to the younger minds as they grow up and to nurture and educate them about the bonding value of peace in our world.”

He added: “We must place crucial value on peace education. The young generation of today deserve a radically different education – one that does not glorify war but educates for peace. As such, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s Global Education First Initiative has three priorities including to ‘foster global citizenship’.”

The initiative explains this concept as transformative education that brings shared values to life and calls for an education that plays a central role in helping people to forge more peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies.

Al-Nasser said: “The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is the ideal forum whereby we can start to make peace within ourselves, within our families and between our communities and our nations.”

“The UN is all that we have in our world to try and make it better,” said Nobel Laureate Betty Williams. “I know that in certain areas it could do with a lot of improvements but give me one organisation in the world that is being run smoothly? What could we do if we didn’t have this organisation? How much worse would it be?” she asked.

Williams, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for promoting a peaceful society, believes that each person, as a global citizen, has a role to play in bringing peace to the world. “We can’t say ‘I don’t have to do it. Let them do it.’ Every child that dies in our world from conditions of malnutrition, from disease, from war, we are all guilty. As a human family, we are all guilty,” she said.

[IDN-InDepthNews – February 24, 2014] □

Related links:

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<http://www.unaoc.org/2014/02/remarks-by-he-nasser-abdulaziz-al-nasser-the-un-high-representative-for-the-alliance-of-civilizations-at-the-book-launch-and-discussion-of-global-citizenship-the-future-of-the-united-nations/>

Translations

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/214-peace-forum-at-un-pleads-for-nuke-abolition-japanese>

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Abolitionists Want to Set a Deadline for Nuclear Ban

By EMILIO GODOY

NUEVO VALLARTA, Mexico (IPS) - Countries in favour of nuclear disarmament have reached the point where they are ready to set a date for the start of formal negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons, a decision that could be taken in Austria at the end of this year.

This was the general sense at the close on Friday Feb. 14 of the two-day Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in the tourist centre of Nuevo Vallarta in western Mexico. Delegates from 146 nations and over 100 non-governmental organisations from all over the world were in attendance.

Participants denounced the humanitarian effects of possession and use of nuclear arsenals and sent a powerful message in favour of the destruction of all nuclear warheads, 19,000 of which are still in the possession of China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"It's a step towards a road map for the objective of prohibition, and I assume that the third conference will provide the road map for that aim. We are more advanced than the nuclear powers in acknowledging that there should be no weapons," Japanese Hirotsugu Terasaki, vice-president of Soka Gakkai and executive director of Peace Affairs of [Soka Gakkai International](#), a pacifist Buddhist organisation, told IPS.

"It's about the creation of an environment for abolition [because] the nuclear powers defend non-proliferation, but they maintain their arsenals," he said at the conference.

The Austrian government announced on Thursday Feb. 13 that they would host the third conference at the end of the year. It will precede the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the [Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#) (NPT), the main binding international instrument for limiting atomic armaments, which has made no progress for the past 15 years.

Photo: Hirotsugu Terasaki, vice-president of Soka Gakkai International, speaking in Nuevo Vallarta on progress towards a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Credit: Kimiaki Kawai



Héctor Guerra, the coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#), which has a membership of 350 organisations from 81 countries, told IPS that the process "is ready for the next steps and for the transition" to a "binding international instrument for the elimination" of nuclear weapons.

Ideally, "the entire international community" would participate, but if the nuclear powers abstain, "there is no problem," said Guerra. In his view, the new treaty "would establish international regulations that would facilitate the delegitimisation of the weapons in international negotiations."

As with the Oslo conference in 2013, the five nuclear powers authorised by the NPT (U.S., China, France, U.K. and Russia) were not present at Nuevo Vallarta. Pakistan, however, was present, although like Israel and India it has not signed the NPT, which currently has 190 states parties.

Since the Oslo conference, the abolitionist movement has made headway in the denunciation of humanitarian impacts. In May 2013 the preparatory committee for the NPT Review Conference highlighted this angle, as did the General Assembly of the United Nations a few months later in New York.

At Nuevo Vallarta the factors of human error and technological failure in the maintenance and management of nuclear arsenals came under scrutiny, illustrated in detail by journalist Eric Schlosser in his book "Command and Control". "Many times the arms were almost used due to miscalculation and mistakes," Patricia Lewis, the head of international security research for the London-based NGO [Chatham House](#), told IPS.



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“The probability is greater than what we know and we have to consider what we don’t know. Today’s situation is even riskier,” she said.

Lewis presented the findings of a study in which she and her team reviewed nuclear incidents in tests, military exercises and potential risk alerts between 1962 and 2013, involving the U.S., the former Soviet Union, the U.K., France, Israel, India and Pakistan.

Among its results, the study found lax physical and operational security practised at all levels by the U.S. air force.

Until all warheads are eliminated, Lewis recommended avoidance of large-scale military exercises at times of high political tension, and slowing the triggering of attack threat alerts.

Terasaki concluded that “nuclear weapons have made humanity their hostage.”

In Guerra’s view, a ban on nuclear weapons should be in place by 2020. “The political conditions are becoming ripe for negotiations,” which should be carried out in the U.N. framework, he said. (IPS – February 15, 2014) □

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/02/abolitionists-want-set-deadline-nuclear-ban/>

Translations

GERMAN

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/european/german/211-anti-atomwaffen-bewegung-sieht-chancen-fuer-baldigen-verhandlungsbeginn>

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

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PORTUGUESE

<http://www.ipsnoticias.net/portuguese/2014/02/ultimas-noticias/abolicionistas-querem-substituir-as-potencias-nucleares/%20>

SPANISH

<http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2014/02/abolicionistas-quierem-emplazar-potencias-nucleares/>

Abolicionistas quieren emplazar a potencias nucleares

Por Emilio Godoy

NUEVO VALLARTA, México, 14 feb 2014 (IPS) - Los países que propugnan el desarme nuclear llegaron virtualmente al punto en el cual deben definir el inicio de negociaciones formales para eliminar esas armas, una decisión que podría asumirse a finales de año en Austria.

Esa sensación envuelve la conclusión este viernes 14 de los dos días de sesiones de la Segunda Conferencia sobre el Impacto Humanitario de las Armas Nucleares, celebrada en el centro turístico de Nuevo Vallarta, en el occidente de México, con delegados de 146 Estados y de más de 100 organizaciones no gubernamentales de todo el mundo.

Al concentrarse en denunciar los efectos humanitarios de la posesión y uso de arsenales nucleares, los asistentes lanzaron un poderoso mensaje a favor de la supresión y veto a esas ojivas, unas 19.000, que se encuentran en poder de China, Estados Unidos, Francia, Gran Bretaña, India, Israel, Pakistán y Rusia.

“Es un paso hacia la hoja de ruta para conseguir la prohibición, y asumo que la tercera conferencia producirá esa hoja de ruta. Estamos avanzados ante las potencias nucleares en reconocer que no debe haber armas”, dijo a IPS el japonés Hirotsugu Terasaki, vicepresidente de la organización budista y pacifista Soka Gakkai y director ejecutivo sobre temas de paz en [Soka Gakkai International](http://www.sokagakkai.org).



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Nuclear Weapons Leave Unspeakable Legacy

By EMILIO GODOY

NUEVO VALLARTA, Mexico (IPS) - For decades, Yasuaki Yamashita kept secret his experiences as a survivor of the nuclear attack launched by the United States on the Japanese city of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. Yamashita, a 74-year-old artist who settled in Mexico in 1968, broke his silence in 1995 and told the story of what happened that morning to change the fate of Nagasaki and of the whole world.

"I was six years old, and we lived 2.5 kilometres away from ground zero (where the bomb detonated). Usually I went to the nearby mountains to catch insects with my friends, but that day I was alone in front of my house, near my mother, who was cooking the day's meal," Yamashita, a white-haired, soft-spoken man with fine features, told IPS.

In 1968, he came to Mexico as a correspondent covering the Olympic Games, and he stayed in this Latin American country. Today he digs deep into his past to recall how his mother called him to go into the shelter they had in their home.

"As we ran into it for cover there was a tremendous blinding light. My mother pulled me to the ground and covered me with her body. There was a tremendous noise, we heard lots of things flying over us," he said.

They were surrounded by desolation. Everything was burning, there were no doctors, nurses or food. It was just the beginning of an endless tragedy that still endures.

At the age of 20, Yamashita started work at the Nagasaki hospital that treated atomic bomb survivors. He resigned years later.

His story greatly moved the participants of the [Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons](#), being held Feb. 13-14 in Nuevo Vallarta, a tourist centre in the northwestern state of Nayarit, and attended by delegates from 140 countries and more than 100 non-governmental organisations from around the world.

The goal of the two-day conference, which follows the previous conference in Oslo in March 2013, is to make progress towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, which are an economic, humanitarian, health and ecological threat to humanity and to the planet.



There are at least 19,000 atomic warheads in existence, most of them in the hands of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – states authorised to possess them under the [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#) – as well as India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.

The Mexican foreign ministry estimates that there are over 2,000 nuclear weapons on "high operational alert," ready for launching within minutes.

"These weapons are unacceptable. They must be banned, like biological and chemical weapons. There is no response capability, nationally or internationally, that can deal with the potential damages," Richard Moyes, of [Article 36](#), a UK-based not-for-profit organisation working to prevent unnecessary harm caused by certain weapons, told IPS.

In February 2013, Article 36 published a study of the likely impact of a 100 kilotonne bomb detonated over Manchester, UK. The broad urban area of Greater Manchester is home to 2.7 million people.

The blast and thermal effects would kill at least 81,000 people directly and injure 212,000 more. Bridges and roads would be destroyed and the health services would be seriously incapacitated, hampering efforts at remedial action. The long term impact on the fabric of UK society "would be massive," the [Article 36 study](#) says.

The Mexico City Metropolitan Area, with a population of over 20 million, carried out a similar theoretical exercise. It found that a 50 kilotonne bomb would affect up to 66 kilometres away from ground zero and some 22 million people, as the damage would extend to areas in the centre of the country beyond the metropolitan area itself.

Photo: Yasuaki Yamashita at the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico. | Credit: Emilio Godoy/IPS



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“The consequences would be severe: loss of operational capacity of the emergency services, loss of rescue workers and health workers, hospitals, clinics,” Rogelio Conde, the coordinator of civil defence at the interior ministry, told IPS. “We would need help from other Mexican states, and from other countries, such as equipment, and operational and expert personnel,” he said.

Ecological devastation and damage to infrastructure would cause losses equivalent to 20 percent of the country’s economy.

Places on the planet that have become atomic laboratories, like the Marshall Islands in the Pacific ocean, have suffered damage of various kinds.

The Marshall Islands, made up of chains of islands and coral atolls, were the site of 67 nuclear tests between 1946 and 1958.

“There have been environmental and health problems, although they have not been quantified. Many of our survivors have become human guineapigs in the research laboratories, and 60 years on we are still suffering the consequences,” complained Jeban Riklon, a senator in the Islands’ government.

Riklon was two years old and living with his grandmother on Rongelap Atoll when the United States carried out its Castle Bravo test on Bikini Atoll on Mar. 1, 1954, detonating a bomb 1,000 times as powerful as that dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The United States immediately performed a secret medical study to investigate the effects of radiation on humans. A Human Rights’ Council Special Rapporteur’s report after a field trip to the Marshall Islands found violations to the right to health, to effective

remedies and to environmental rehabilitation, in addition to forced displacement and other serious omissions by the United States.

The promoters of the Mexico conference want the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Tlatelolco Treaty, which was signed in 1967, to be the model for a future global convention against the bomb, even though they must overcome decades of diplomatic deadlock.

The treaty led to the region becoming the first of the Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones (NWFZ) which now include 114 nations.

The other four NWFZ are the South Pacific, Africa, South-east Asia and Central Asia.

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation seeks to establish a clear road map to an atomic-weapons-free world by 2020.

There are already 161 states party to this treaty, but its entry into force depends on its signature and ratification by China, North Korea, Egypt, the United States, India, Iran, Israel and Pakistan.

At the Nuevo Vallarta conference there are no representatives from the big five nuclear powers: the United States, China, France, the United Kingdom and Russia.

“I don’t know how many generations it will take for this to end. Why should so many innocent people be made to suffer, when there is no need? This is why we have to make the utmost efforts to abolish nuclear weapons,” Yamashita concluded. (IPS – February 14, 2014) □

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/02/nuclear-weapons-leave-unspeakable-legacy/>

Translations

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/202-nuclear-weapons-leave-unspeakable-legacy-japanese>

JAPANESE PDF VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.info/documents/Japanese/Japanese_Nuclear_Weapons_Leave_Unspeakable_Legacy.pdf

PORTUGUESE

<http://www.ipsnoticias.net/portuguese/2014/02/ultimas-noticias/os-danos-nucleares-nunca-se-extinguem/%20>

Os danos nucleares nunca se extinguem

Nuevo Vallarta, México, 14/2/2014 – Durante décadas, o silêncio corroeu Yasuaki Yamashita sobre suas vivências como sobrevivente do ataque nuclear que os Estados Unidos lançaram sobre a cidade japonesa de Nagasaki, em 9 de agosto de 1945. Yamashita, um artista plástico de 74 anos que reside no México desde 1968, rompeu o lacre que fechava sua boca em 1995, para contar o que viveu naquela manhã que mudou o destino de Nagasaki e do mundo inteiro.

SPANISH

<http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2014/02/los-danos-nucleares-nunca-extinguen/>



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Nuke Summit Agenda Circumvents Armed Powers

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - When over 50 world leaders meet in the Netherlands next month for a Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), the primary focus will be on a politically-loaded question: how do we prevent non-state actors and terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear weapons or nuclear materials? But sceptical anti-nuclear activists and academics pose an equally serious, but long ignored, question: how do you prevent the use of nukes by the eight countries that already possess the devastating weapon of mass destruction (WMD).

Alyn Ware, a consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), told IPS the problem with the Nuclear Security Summit is that it only focuses on one-third of the picture: non-state actors who don't even have nuclear weapons.

"It does not address the bigger picture: the current and real threats of the stockpiles of weapons and materials of nuclear-armed states, and the risks of proliferation to additional states," he said.

All of the nuclear-armed countries – the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia, India, Pakistan and Israel – will participate in the summit, scheduled to take place in The Hague Mar. 24-25.

North Korea, which is not a publicly-declared nuclear power, is not among the 58 countries which will be present at the international conference, which is also expected to attract some 5,000 delegates and over 3,000 journalists.

The Dutch government is touting the NSS as "the largest gathering of its kind ever in the country."

In response to fears that such weapons will "fall into the wrong hands," Ware said, "With regard to nuclear weapons, there are no right hands."

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague has long confirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal, regardless of who would possess or use such weapons, and that there is an obligation to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

"It's ironic that this summit is happening in The Hague, but appears to ignore the conclusion of, and legal imperative from, the highest court in the world situated in the same city," said Ware, who is also a member of the World Future Council.



The Hague summit will be the third in a series, the first having been held in Washington DC in 2010, and the second in Seoul, South Korea, in 2012.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has called the amount of nuclear material in the world "enormous."

"If it falls into the hands of terrorists, the consequences could be disastrous. The international community must do everything in its power to prevent this," he said.

By hosting the summit, he says, the Netherlands will contribute to a safer world.

Asked if there has been any progress since Seoul, Dr M. V. Ramana, of the Nuclear Futures Laboratory & Programme on Science and Global Security at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, told IPS, "Yes, there has been some progress since the last Nuclear Security Summit."

According to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, which in turn cited the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration, seven countries – Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Sweden, Ukraine and Vietnam – have removed all or most of their stocks of weapons-usable nuclear materials from their territories.

"That is, of course, good," says Ramana. "But these are not the countries the international community is really worried about, nor did they have large stockpiles of fissile materials to start with."

The major concern, Dr. Ramana pointed out, should be the countries that have such stockpiles – the nuclear weapon states – and in these countries the larger context continues to be business-as-usual, with plans to hold on to the nuclear weapons, the associated fissile materials, and in some cases, plans to produce more.



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"I do not expect any of them to make any dramatic announcements at the upcoming security summit," he said.

U.S. President Barack Obama is quoted as saying that in a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of a nuclear attack has gone up. And any use of nuclear weapons in an urban area in the 21st century would create a humanitarian, environmental and financial catastrophe of which we have had no precedent.

Ware said it is important for governments, scientists, lawmakers and civil society to cooperate to ensure that nuclear materials and technology are under safe and secure control to prevent the possibility of them being used to make a nuclear device, no matter how crude, and then using this device.

The Dutch government makes clear the limited focus of the summit when it points out the NSS "is not about non-proliferation." "It's about rogue nuclear material. It's about ensuring that such material does not fall into the wrong hands."

And according to the Dutch government, the NSS will not discuss nuclear disarmament, the pros and cons of nuclear power, or protection from natural disasters. But Ware argues governments are understandably dedicating considerable resources to prevent the spread of nuclear materials to non-state actors.

"But where are the same resources being dedicated to eliminating the current arsenals of nuclear weapons, including those deployed in the Netherlands – and securing the stockpiles of fissile materials possessed by the nuclear-armed states?" he asked. (IPS - February 11, 2014) □

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/02/nuke-summit-agenda-circumvents-armed-powers/>

Translations

GERMAN

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/european/german/210-gipfel-fuer-nukleare-sicherheit-im-maerz-blendet-gefahr-durch-atomstaaten-aus>

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/208-nuke-summit-agenda-circumvents-armed-powers-japanese>

JAPANESE PDF VERSION http://www.nuclearabolition.info/documents/Japanese/Japanese_Nuke_Summit_Agenda_Circumvents_Armed_Powers.pdf



資料：ICJ

核保有国の問題を避ける核安全保障サミット

【国連IPS=タリフ・ディーン】

50か国以上の首脳が来月オランダで開かれる核安全保障サミット（NSS）に集う。最大の焦点は政治的な色彩の濃い問題、つまり、非国家主体やテロリストが核兵器や核物質を入手するのを防ぐにはどうすればよいか、という問いになるだろう。



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A Manufactured Nuclear Crisis

By PETER JENKINS*

WASHINGTON (IPS) - The subtitle of Gareth Porter's new book, "The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare," is well-chosen. Large parts of "A Manufactured Crisis" are indeed untold till now. They amount to what the author terms an "alternative narrative".

But don't be misled by "alternative". This is not the work of some crank who imagines conspiracies where none exist. One senses, rather, from the author's meticulous sourcing and the extent of his research that what motivates him is a fierce hunger for truth and aversion to deceit.

Porter has been investigating the Iranian nuclear case for the best part of a decade. The result of his researches is both a fascinating addition to a growing corpus, unlike any previous work on the issue, and a disturbing indictment of U.S. and Israeli policies.

One central theme is that hidden motives have coloured these policies. On the U.S. side, Porter explains, the end of the Cold War led to a federal bureaucratic interest in exaggerating the WMD and missile threat posed by Iran (and other emerging countries) to justify funding bids.

During the presidency of George W. Bush, some senior administration members also sought to exploit nuclear fears to "delegitimise" the Iranian government and engineer a pretext for enforced regime change.

On the Israeli side, every government since 1992 – both Likud and Labour – has seen advantage in dramatising the Iranian threat and in demonising Iran's leaders.

"Iran and Shi'a fundamentalism are the greatest threats to global peace," proclaimed one Israeli document. The purpose has been to maintain the value of Israel to the U.S. as



a "strategic ally", to distract global unease from Israel's nuclear weapons arsenal, and to create excuses for remaining in occupation of Palestinian territory.

Porter concludes: "U.S. and Israeli policies have been driven by political and bureaucratic interests, not by a rational, objective assessment of available indicators of the motives and intentions of Iranian leaders."

Another central theme, one that complements the hidden motive theme, is that intelligence material and intelligence assessments have played a baleful part in this saga.

Faulty interpretation of intelligence in the early 1990s led U.S. analysts to believe in a full-scale, clandestine nuclear weapons programme, according to Porter, whereas, in his

view, the weapons programme never amounted to more than some weapons-related research between the late 1990s and 2003.

Faulty interpretations can be forgiven. More seriously, Porter's researches suggest that in the first half of the last decade, U.S. analysts ignored or discounted evidence that called into question the assessments made in the 1990s.

A CIA contract officer who transmitted human reporting that Iran did not intend to "weaponise" the product of its enrichment plants was ordered to cease contact with the source. Those within the CIA who pointed out the absence of evidence that Iran's leaders had decided to make a nuclear weapon were unable to get this reflected in assessments.

Image credit: lobelog.com

**Peter Jenkins was a British career diplomat for 33 years following studies at the universities of Cambridge and Harvard. He served in Vienna (twice), Washington, Paris, Brasilia and Geneva. His last assignment (2001-06) was that of UK Ambassador to the IAEA and UN (Vienna). Since 2006 he has represented the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership*



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Analysts refused to give weight to the outlawing of nuclear weapons on religious grounds, although by then it was clear that Iranians had respected a similar religious ban on chemical weapons. Iranian assurances of peaceful intent, or at least of an intention to go no further than mastering the fuel cycle, “to enable neighbours to draw the necessary inference”, were disregarded.

A still more serious charge is that Israel has engaged in the forgery and fabrication of intelligence.

Since early 2008 the case against Iran has rested mainly on material stored on a laptop. The material came into U.S. hands in 2004, and was passed to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2005. For two and a half years, IAEA officials regarded the material as dubious and made no use of it. It was only in 2008 that they started to press Iran to answer for it. Porter implies that their initial scepticism was justified by laying out extensive grounds to believe that Israel fabricated this crucial material.

Porter is also convinced that Israel fabricated two other documents that have kept the Iranian case alive, despite a U.S. National Intelligence (NIE) finding in late 2007 that Iran had abandoned its nuclear weapons programme in 2003, and despite the IAEA reporting in early 2008 that Iran had resolved all the concerns that had arisen out of IAEA investigations in the preceding years.

In 2008, Israel passed to the IAEA intelligence suggesting that, years earlier, Iran had conducted nuclear weapon detonation tests at its Parchin military site. Then in 2009

Israel supplied “evidence” that Iran had resumed weapons-related research post-2003.

If Porter is right, and if all three of these grounds for pursuing the case against Iran were fabricated, that is a very serious matter. The U.S. and its European allies, assuming this intelligence to be reliable, have rejected Iranian protests to the contrary. Indeed, they have interpreted the Iranian response as a refusal to cooperate with the IAEA, and on that basis they have mobilised international support for sanctioning Iran to the hilt. Those sanctions have hurt Iranians and have damaged European and Asian economies.

The supposed refusal to cooperate has also served to justify maintaining U.N. demands that were first made of Iran before the 2007 NIE, when it seemed reasonable to consider Iran’s nuclear programme a threat to peace, but which became inappropriate after the 2007 NIE and once the IAEA had reported the resolution of all its pre-2008 concerns.

No doubt some readers will prefer to continue believing in the authenticity of this Israeli intelligence material. That may or may not turn out to be the right call.

One inference, though, from “Manufactured Crisis” looks inescapable. There has never been conclusive evidence that Iran’s Islamic leaders want to have or to use nuclear weapons. All talk of an “Iranian nuclear threat” is therefore premature. Consequently, the draconian measures implemented by the U.S. and its allies to avert that threat are unreasonable and unwarranted. [IPS | January 29, 2014] □

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/01/manufactured-crisis/>

Translations

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/195-a-manufactured-nuclear-crisis-japanese>

捏造されたイラン核危機

【ワシントンIPS=ピーター・ジェンキンス】

ガレス・ポーター氏（歴史家・IPS記者）の新著の副題「イラン核騒動の語られざる物語（The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare）」は、よく選ばれた言葉だ。『捏造された危機』の大部分は実際、今まで語られてきていない。それを紐解いていけば、著者が言うところの「もうひとつの物語」が見えてくるだろう。

しかし、「もうひとつの」という言葉に惑わされてはいけない。これは、存在しない陰謀を創り出した変人の作品ではないのだ。読者はむしろ、ポーター氏の細かい情報源や調査の深さを見て、彼の動機となっているものが、真実へのあくなき追究と、人を騙すことへの反発であることに気付くであろう。

ポーター氏は、この10年間のほとんどをイラン核問題の調査に費やしてきた。彼の調査結果は、この問題に関するこれまでの調査とは異なり、ますます増える文献に素晴らしい新たな1ページを加えるものであり、米国およびイスラエルの政策への辛辣な「有罪判決」とでも言うべきものだ。



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Security Of Nukes In South Asia

By ZAYANE BIBI

India is the world's second largest country, with over 1.18 billion of population, which is 17.31% of the world's total population. Being considered as one of the biggest democracy, India is emerging as a power that is trying to play a global role. India is also an important country geographically, lying in the strategically significant region of South Asia. Not enjoying good relations with her neighbors, India also has a record of having wars with two of its neighbors i.e. Pakistan and China.

Besides, India has always been a big market, attracting so many countries of the world to capture the Indian markets. This pursuit has involved US as well that is currently trying to enhance cooperation with India in various fields. This situation is being quite smartly manipulated by India, in return, taking maximum advantage from the world powers for the sake of the development of its economy; Indo-US nuclear deal is a good example in this respect.

This Indo-US nuclear deal gives India access to Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) comprising 46 nations. NSG was established after India's first nuclear test in 1974, in order to oversee the nuclear transparencies among the non-nuclear states. NSG's main duty is to check the nuclear export between countries.

The aim of NSG undertakings is to ensure that nuclear trade must be used for peaceful purposes while avoiding the weaponry usage. As soon as India had got an access to NSG, it opened the doors for India to make nuclear deals with other countries like France, Russia and UK. In this way on one hand, India has got the opportunity to fulfill its domestic energy requirements through these deals, while on the other; it can use its unguarded fissile material for weaponry purposes.

In this connection, the power companies of Russia, France, UK, US and Canada are signing civil nuclear deals with India in order to let her meet its energy demands.

The recent civil nuclear agreement with France has brought India out of the 34 year old nuclear isolation while establishing France as the first country to enter into a formal understanding with India after the latter's exemption from NSG guidelines.

Alongside, with a view to capture Indian market, countries from all around the globe are trying to sign different nuclear deals with India; however as a matter of fact, Indian nuclear program is becoming more insecure with the passage of time owing to its separatists movements, as most of the Indian atomic installations are present in the east-

ern part of the country despite the fact that many rebellious movements are going on there; among them Naxalites Movement is currently at its peak.

The world has already witnessed many nuclear mishaps in past related to safety and security in Indian nuclear program. In such a scenario, Indian nuclear program is in position of facing diverse challenges.

As to the Naxalites Movement, the Indian intelligence agency RAW had reported 20,000 armed cadre Naxalites, in addition to 50,000 regular cadres, to be operating in India. Even, their growing influence forced the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to declare them as the most serious internal threat to India's national security, while fearing that these extremists could take over Indian nuclear installations and thus, could easily blackmail the world.

Still, various atomic plants like Uranium Processing Plant, Uranium Cooperation of India Ltd, Taljir Heavy Water Plant and Institute of Physics are present in the area which is under Naxalites' custody. To boot, there are many atomic scientists who seem to have their sympathies with Naxalites and are secretly helping them in the illegal trade of Uranium.

Moreover, more than 75% of Indian nuclear installations are present in the areas where Hindu extremists are in action; also some Indian missile Installations are placed in those areas where separatists are running movements, like Sikhs are operating in "Khalistan", Chandi Gharh; besides, Pritivi missile stock is instituted in Jammu Kashmir.

It is due to the improper safety and security measures for Indian nuclear Installations that many theft cases have been recorded: in the decade of 1990, more than 130 mishaps took place in the Indian atomic set up; in 1998, there were 28 accidents in 9 power stations, in which five nuclear power plants caught fire, while poisonous gas spread in heavy water plant at one place, causing a scientist's death;

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<http://thefrontierpost.com/article/78725/Security-of-nukes-in-South-Asia/>



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according to CNN report of January 26, 2003, Indian company NEC Engineers Pvt Ltd sent 10 consignments to Iraq which also includes machinery, sensitive to atomic plant; in December 2007, Mumbai police arrested three persons with enriched uranium; in February 2008, police arrested smugglers with 5kg of uranium; on November 13, 2008, Indian police arrested 8 persons, involved in the illegal trade of uranium; and on November 7, 2000 according to IAEA resources, Indian police arrested two persons, having 57 pounds of uranium with them.

Regardless of the recent propaganda in which questions over the security of the Pakistan's nuclear arsenals has been raised towards Islamabad, Pakistan again assured that it follows best practices and standards set by the International Atomic Energy Agency to safeguard its nuclear assets and it has an impeccable record of safely operating nuclear power plants for over 40 years.

Whereas, wikileaks has provided that the Hindu extremist parties play a very influential role in India; having good relations with Indian government on one hand, and exercising a good influence on the armed forces on the other, they work on the hidden agenda of bringing infamy to ISI through their secretive activities, thus aiming to contain and outlaw it completely.

Wikileaks claims that Hindu extremists are a great threat to the world peace, which is much bigger than Al-Qaeda or Lashkar-e-Tayyaba. It further conveys that the Indian nuclear program is emerging as a real peril for the world due to the increasing cases of theft from Indian nuclear installations and because the Indian nuclear scientists are the easiest victims to the Hindu extremists. □

The Frontier Post was launched in 1984 from the Peshawar capital of Khyber Pashtoon Khawa (KPK). It was re-started from Lahore on September 25th, 2007

Can True Democracy Exist In A Nuclear Weapon State?

By KENNETTE BENEDICT*

Nuclear weapons and democracy do not mix. So argued Robert Dahl, a revered political scientist at Yale University, who died in February at the age of 98. His book *Controlling Nuclear Weapons: Democracy versus Guardianship* is a powerful statement on the inherent contradiction between deploying nuclear weapons and governing by democracy. In it he observes that secrecy in nuclear policymaking coupled with the centralized and rapid decision making required by launch-on-warning protocols results in rule by guardians of the nuclear arsenal, rather than the people and their representatives.

While we mourn the passing of a great theorist of democracy, we are fortunate that, in her new book *Thermonuclear Monarchy*, Elaine Scarry takes up where Dahl and others left off. Where Dahl drew on Aristotle's theories, Scarry draws from the 17th century political philosophers Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, to show that nuclear weapons and democracy are contradictory. What makes Scarry's argument so original is that she lodges the rationale for ridding our society of nuclear weapons in the very theoretical traditions, especially in Hobbes' work, that have been used to justify leaders' power to use nuclear weapons. In doing so, she reclaims the radically democratic intentions of Hobbes, Locke, and the founders of the United States.

Hobbes wrote at a time when the experience of nearly constant war in Europe led political thinkers to search for governing frameworks that would lead to peace. They developed ideas about the social contract that James Madison and others later drew upon to create the American constitution. Most succinctly put, the radical idea of the mid-1600s proposed that the covenant among people is established to eliminate injury. As Locke wrote, individuals enter into the social contract to "secure them from injury and

violence." For Hobbes, persons cede individual power to a legislature or sovereign to get themselves out of "that miserable condition of Warre." The social contract, whereby individuals agree to subject themselves to the law, empowers the sovereign government to stop injury, even by use of force and imprisonment if necessary, but only after elaborate procedures are followed that provide for trial by a jury of peers. Where the social contract falls apart, as in today's Syria, war is the result.

When it comes to a population being injured by another government, however, Hobbes makes it clear that, to preserve themselves, the people have the right to determine whether their own government shall go to war. Through legislative and parliamentary debate, and the service of citizen-soldiers, a sovereign government is subject to direction and objections from the population. It is not the sovereign's prerogative alone to declare war, as some Hobbesian theorists have contended. Hobbes himself asserted that where all are affected by violence, all must participate in the remedy. In the case of war to fend off an enemy, in which the whole population must be mobilized to preserve society, the people must have a say in whether and when to engage.



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When it comes to nuclear weapons, though, the conduct of war lies wholly outside the social contract between citizens and their government. First, the injury that thermonuclear weapons would cause another country is so massive that it is impossible to conceive conditions under which using them as retaliation would be required, unless a people had first suffered themselves from a devastating nuclear attack. But the nuclear doctrine of launch-on-warning, which sends missiles in retaliation even before the enemy's have landed, allows for no deliberation.

Second, since their secret invention in the midst of World War II, there has been no public democratic discussion on nuclear weapons use. Information about the number of weapons, their capabilities, their targets, and their readiness are all classified. So it has been impossible for even US congressional representatives to participate in open debate about how to use these weapons of massive civilian destruction. While US elected officials have insisted on debates about whether to invade Iraq or Iran, they have had no opportunity to debate whether or when to use nuclear weapons.

During the Cold War with the Soviet Union, US military strategists argued that the threat of surprise nuclear attack with intercontinental ballistic missiles left no time for debate. Such thinking drove US leaders to believe that the only defense against nuclear attack was to threaten massive instant retaliation. Their advisors invoked Hobbes,

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

claiming that the social contract that lodged responsibility in the sovereign for protecting the people gave the president the moral authority to launch nuclear arsenals on their behalf. As Scarry argues in her book, however, just as individuals cannot injure one another without the government intervening, a government cannot injure another country's population without the absolute consent of its own people. Otherwise, the sovereign becomes a tyrant, acting on its own outside the social contract between people and government. That is why the framers of the US constitution lodged the power to declare war with Congress rather than the president. Following in the tradition of the social contract, they believed ceding such power to the executive would contribute to lawlessness among nations, and a state of perpetual war. In a supreme irony, by threatening the authoritarian leaders of the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons, the United States itself became a nuclear tyrant.

As it stands today, however, even after the end of the Soviet dictatorship, Americans have continued to cede the right to collectively decide when the government will go to nuclear war. In this decision it has ceased to be democratic. The people have no voice in the most significant decision the United States government can make—whether to injure another society with weapons of mass destruction. There is no other way to put it. When it comes to the possession and use of nuclear weapons, Elaine Scarry is right: Americans live in a thermonuclear monarchy. □

[Source: <http://thebulletin.org/can-true-democracy-exist-nuclear-weapon-state>]

Nuclear Disarmament: The Case For Engagement, Not Division

By REBECCA COUSINS*

[February 24, 2014] The nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) articulates a collective ambition: a world free of nuclear weapons. And since its inception, we have made significant progress: 189 countries have signed up to the NPT; nuclear weapons have reduced in number from an estimated 70,000 at the height of the Cold War to somewhere in the region of 17,000 today; and while there have certainly been bumps in the road, the treaty has largely kept a lid on further proliferation.

However, we are struggling to achieve our vision. The truth is, we continue to hold a deep psychological attachment to nuclear weapons, rooted in emotions of fear and self-preservation. Non-weapon states, such as Saudi Arabia, resort to hints of nuclear ambitions when they feel vulnerable and unprotected. Possessor states still cling tightly to a doctrine of nuclear deterrence that, despite dramatic reductions, means that the number of nuclear weapons still in existence remains unacceptably high and the obstacles to complete disarmament feel daunting.

**Rebecca Cousins is Program Director for BASIC in Washington D.C., before which she was a career diplomat with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She was recently awarded an MBE for her role in the UK's consular in-country response to the 2011 Japan earthquake and subsequent Fukushima nuclear incident.*



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The lower the numbers get, the harder it appears to be to let go. What is more, some of the states ostensibly pushing for disarmament continue to do so from the shelter of the US nuclear umbrella. These are weapons that continue to have a deep hold on our psyche, with a reach that extends well beyond a handful of influential decision makers.

The question is: what do we do about it?

Some in the advocacy community believe they have found the solution. They believe we can skip over this psychological attachment; that we can drive through change by sheer force of will. Rebecca Johnson writes about attempts to push through an international ban on the use of nuclear weapons inspired by discussion of their humanitarian impacts. The hope is that a formal treaty, if signed by others in the international community, will effectively guilt and shame the possessor states into giving up their nuclear arsenals.

Let me be clear: I wholeheartedly agree that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use is a discussion we must have. The potential impacts of nuclear weapons use stretch well beyond the national boundaries of the possessor states and, as I pointed out in my earlier article, I believe all states deserve a seat at the disarmament table.

The problem I have with the divide and conquer, “guilt and shame” approach, however, is that I do not think it brings us closer to where we want to be in the long term. It is applying a method successfully used on other weapon systems, such as landmines and cluster munitions, which have weaker connections to state power, and assuming nuclear weapons are the same beast. This may make us feel more empowered, but it is a placebo. Political gamesmanship will likely ruffle some feathers, but it is highly unlikely to dislodge deep-seated beliefs that are linked to feelings of national security, status and global power balance; and, even less likely if we make no attempt to actually address them.

To claim, as Johnson does, that the nuclear weapon states have not participated in the humanitarian discussion because they are “taking a stand against humanitarian disarmament” is disingenuous. The truth is that by centering the discussion around a nuclear weapons convention and demanding the nuclear weapon states abandon their



deep-held beliefs, the advocacy movement have been actively pushing away the nuclear weapon states.

It is understandable that frustrations on disarmament run deep. Our blind attachment to weapons that hold such high risk is frustrating and unacceptable. But attempting to force through a nuclear weapons convention without the engagement of the states we are actually trying to persuade seems more likely, in the long term, to simply compound the “them” vs. “us” mentality that already pervades this debate. We may feel empowered in the short-term, but the long-term issues remain untouched.

On an issue that is rife with disagreement, the dire humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use are a rare point on which weapon states and non-weapon states, proponents and opponents of nuclear deterrence, all agree. We should be grasping that opportunity for dialogue with both hands.

My suggestion is that, rather than using the humanitarian discussion as a means of highlighting division, we should be using it as a point of agreement from which we can open the door to more forward-looking engagement: engagement based upon the joint enterprise of strengthening international norms that support inclusive, universal, non-discriminatory, law-based structures. There have been many years of stalemate and inaction on this agenda, reflecting the complexity and entrenched attachments involved in it. But ultimately, the most effective means of creating the necessary international consensus to move forward is not by threat, but by seeking to build positive international relationships through dialogue. That is surely the lesson we are learning with Iran, and we should apply it too to the nuclear weapon states.

Our ambition needs to be greater than creating two separate tables: the weapon states at one and the non-weapon states at another. We should be aiming for a single table, where both sets of interests are appropriately represented. But to do that we need to stop pretending that the humanitarian discussion is about inviting the weapon states in, and actually open the door. By refocusing on engagement, rather than on a treaty that is intended to drive deeper fractures into an already divisive debate, I think we stand a much greater chance of making sustainable progress. □

Source:

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/rebecca-cousins/nuclear-disarmament-case-for-engagement-not-division>



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What Others Say

US, China and the South Asian Nuclear Construct

By MANPREET SETHI

ICSSR Senior Fellow affiliated with the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

Source: <http://www.ipcs.org/article/india/us-china-and-the-south-asian-nuclear-construct-4311.html>

[February 19, 2014] Most Western writings/conferences on India-Pakistan nuclear deterrence tend to try and understand this dyad in a narrow regional box of South Asia. This is not only stifling and restricting but also not a useful formulation. Rather, the India-Pakistan nuclear entanglement has roots beyond this geographical construct since no consideration of this relationship is meaningful without bringing China into the picture. China, however, brings along its own set of strategic equations with Russia and the US, thereby making the nuclear issue global.

The reason that the Indo-Pak nuclear entanglement cannot be divorced from China is because Beijing impinges on the region in two ways. The first one pertains to the close relationship that China has had with its all-weather friend, Pakistan. It was with generous Chinese help that Pakistan built its nuclear weapons. The transfer of 50 kg highly enriched uranium, weapon designs, providing delivery vectors, including the setting up of a missile factory, are well known facts today. To quote Gary Milhollin, an American non-proliferation expert, "If you subtract China's help from Pakistan's nuclear programme, there is no nuclear programme." Having created a nuclear weapons state, China uses it effectively as a proxy to complicate India's security.

The second shadow is cast by China's ongoing nuclear modernization. While China is doing so with its eyes on US capabilities and their impact on its own nuclear deterrence, India suffers the downstream effect of these developments. Indian responses, in turn, have an impact across its western border. Therefore, strategic deterrence and stability in the 21st century has to be considered in a more global construct. No current dyadic nuclear relationship has the luxury of bipolar equation of the Cold War. Rather, regional deterrence is complicated by the inevitability of each nation's response to its threat perceptions in a sort of a chain reaction, oblivious to, or perhaps unable to address the fact that its own responses have further implications.

One good illustration of this is the ongoing march of ballistic missile defence (BMD). The US set the tone for this by abandoning the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty in 1972 and expressing a resolve to pursue defence along with deterrence to deal with a range of new threats that could not be deterred and hence had to be defended against. As the US has steadily gone about developing and deploying requisite capabilities over the last decade or so, it has repeatedly tried to reassure Russia and China that its BMD is not meant to upset strategic stability with them. But, that is not how Moscow and Beijing read American intentions. Fearing the worst, both are engaged in developing their own hedging strategies, which include building their own

BMD, as well as counter-measures, to address their threat perceptions as emerging from the US BMD.

Chinese efforts in this direction, in turn, raise threat perceptions in India. Even though India harbours a sense of nuclear stability with China owing to a consonance in their nuclear doctrines and the fact that neither brandishes the weapon as a war-fighting tool for easy or early use, and also because neither country is interested in digressing from the trajectory of economic growth and development, there is no denying the existence of a long-term threat perception. This is exacerbated by China's conventional and nuclear build-up, given that territorial disputes persist between India and China. The possibility of a BMD-protected China subjecting India to nuclear coercion compels India to develop necessary responses of its own. India has demonstrated a limited BMD capability, which, in turn, has raised concerns in Pakistan, who has responded with increasing its own nuclear arsenal and demonstrating a desire to develop tactical nuclear weapons.

So, what started in Washington as the pursuit of the BMD to meet changed American threat perceptions has ended up providing the logic and justification for Pakistan to increase its arsenal. Pakistan's fast growing stockpile, however, has implications not just for regional but international security. Existential risks from nuclear weapons – that of unauthorised launch, miscalculation, accident – are dangers that accompany nuclear weapons. During the Cold War, the US and USSR, and by extension, the rest of the world, lived with these dangers. But these risks are exacerbated when a country that has nuclear weapons also cohabits with non-state actors – some that it nurtures to meet its foreign policy objectives and others that have slipped beyond its control. In either case, the possibility of a meeting between terrorism and nuclear weapons/material is not a sanguine development.

Unfortunately, as Pakistan moves further down the road towards tactical nuclear weapons and delegates command and control to maintain a credible first use nuclear doctrine, the existential risks can only increase. □



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Africa Asked To Address Nuke Proliferation Risks

By JAYA RAMACHANDRAN

STOCKHOLM (IDN) - African countries, which are party to the 1996 African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty of Pelindaba and already contribute a significant share of the uranium used in the peaceful nuclear industry worldwide, have been asked to develop “a full understanding of their extractive industries, to avoid the risk that uranium will be supplied from unconventional sources – for example, as a by-product of other mining activities”.

Such potential hazards can be addressed by making proper and up-to-date physical security arrangements at the sites where uranium is being mined and while it is being transported, says a new study by SIPRI, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.



dialogue with converters and suppliers of enrichment services to better understand how those actors meet their legal obligations and manage proliferation risk.

“A potential framework would be to invite converters and enrichment service providers to participate in special sessions of regional or sub-regional meetings that are already

being organized by African nuclear regulators,” says the policy brief, adding: “Another potential framework would be to make contact with, for example, the Nuclear Suppliers Group to explore the opportunities for dialogue on specific subjects relevant to proliferation risk management.”

Uranium production is an important part of the African economy, with Niger, Namibia and South Africa creating up to 18% of the world's annual production. Many African countries produce uranium or have untapped uranium ore deposits.

The study titled Africa and the Global Market in Natural Uranium - From Proliferation Risk to Non-proliferation Opportunity points out that little attention has been paid to the limited, but not negligible, nuclear proliferation risks associated with the mining of uranium. As the global market for uranium changes and as more African countries become uranium suppliers, there is a need for them to be vigilant of those risks.

Those discussions, the authors suggest, could take up the questions: What are the legal obligations of converters and enrichment service providers? How do they understand those obligations? What procedures are in place to make them effective? What procedures exist in countries that have nuclear weapons to ensure separation of civil and military activities?

Initiate dialogue

International cooperation

The study also stresses the need to initiate dialogue with uranium suppliers located in nuclear weapon-free zones. It argues: As African countries increasingly explore commercial uranium supply arrangements with countries in Asia and the Middle East, it will be important to develop a common understanding among uranium-supplier countries about how they interpret their obligations under current nuclear weapon-free zone treaties.

Although the language related to conditions for supply in the nuclear weapon-free zone treaties is similar or, in some cases, identical, their parties nevertheless seem to reach different conclusions about whether or not commercial agreements with, for example, India can be implemented with acceptable levels of risk.

Picture above: Koeberg Nuclear Power Station South Africa, is keen to develop new uranium mines in the country to support prospective nuclear plants | Credit: Eskom



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An international conference could bring together uranium suppliers (current and anticipated) to discuss their interpretations of treaty obligations, with the final objective of a harmonized approach to conditions for supply, says the study, and pleads for discussing at the regional level current practices for key proliferation risk management policies and practices

“African countries engaged in uranium supply could benefit themselves and each other through regular discussion on the subject of how they manage proliferation risk. This can also be a valuable opportunity for information sharing and the development of standards tailored to specific conditions found in Africa,” the policy brief says.

It notes that special sessions of the regular meetings already taking place in the context of, for example, the Treaty of Pelindaba, the network of African nuclear regulators and on arms control under the umbrella of the African Union could offer opportunities to convene such discussions.

“A topic that could be taken up at an early stage of such meetings is the need for a comprehensive understanding of uranium supply from Africa, taking into account the unconventional sources. A joint analysis and a comprehensive picture of unconventional sources of uranium in Africa would be a valuable outcome from discussions,” authors of the policy brief say.

A second topic that could be taken up at an early stage, they suggest, is assessing proliferation risks that may arise out of uranium supplied for non-nuclear purposes.

The study further proposes convening the group of uranium suppliers and prospective uranium suppliers at periodic meetings to discuss proliferation risks and risk mitigation. At present, there is no forum where uranium suppliers meet to discuss proliferation risk management. Most African uranium-supplier countries participate in the IAEA Annual Conference.

“This could be a good opportunity to convene as many uranium-supplier countries as possible for an annual discussion of current tendencies and developments of mutual interest,” says the study. Examples of issues that could usefully be included on the agenda of such meetings include exchange of information on current practices in, for example, administration of safeguards, national implementation of physical protection obligations and effective export controls.

Meetings of this kind would be an opportunity to inform uranium-supplier states of the latest developments in guidance and principles of best practice on, for example, conditions to attach to permits, conditions for granting licences, physical protection, and safe and secure transport. [IDN-InDepthNews – January 10, 2014] □

<http://www.peoplesdecade.org/>



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Nuclear Weapons Represent a Dead End in Strategic Thinking

By KATE HUDSON

General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)

[February 13, 2014] Confidence in the government's strategic capacities seems to be plummeting. Last month the Defence Committee published a withering report on the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR); apart from a cost cutting objective they found nothing strategic about it. In fact the Committee went so far as to suggest that the MoD should provide them with an update on the skills training in strategy provided to senior officials! Pretty damning stuff.

This week a top level cross party panel, convening in Westminster for the launch of a new report into Britain's nuclear weapons strategy, shared some similar conclusions. Chaired by former foreign secretary Dame Margaret Beckett MP, panel members included James Arbuthnot MP, Tory chair of the Defence Committee, the former Labour Chief Whip Nick Brown MP and Sir Nick Harvey MP, former Lib Dem Defence Minister. Although drawn from a range of political backgrounds, the strong commonality of view from the panellists was striking.

First in the spotlight - highlighted by the Chair in her opening remarks - was the disconnect between the National Security Strategy (NSS) and the SDSR. They were published almost simultaneously in the autumn of 2010 - and the timing reveals the problem. The NSS was widely regarded as being pretty effective at identifying Britain's contemporary security challenges: cyber warfare, terrorism, pandemics and extreme weather emergencies. And it downgraded state-on-state nuclear attack to a level two threat.

The SDSR, on the other hand, made no concomitant reassessment of the role of Britain's nuclear weapons system Trident, and continued to apportion the same level of resources to it, apparently without question. In a reduced MoD budget this meant that, perversely, other areas faced major cuts even though their salience wasn't actually reduced. So as we approach the 2016 'Main Gate' decision in parliament on whether to fund Trident replacement, there has been no strategic assessment of Trident and its role in the twenty first century.

Another disconnect also came under scrutiny - between successive UK governments' commitment to multilateral disarmament, enshrined in its ratification of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the current government's failure to participate in a new multilateral global initiative. The panel was united in its condemnation of the government's refusal to attend an international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, taking place this week in Mexico and attended by some 140+ states. India and Pakistan are attending, but the five original nuclear weapons states appear to be boycotting the event. Nick Harvey and James Arbuthnot, both former Defence Ministers, were absolutely clear that Britain should be attending, with Harvey calling Britain's absence 'a disgrace'.

With the overwhelming majority of states participating, including a number of its NATO partners, Britain cannot afford to be outside this process. Rising economic powers are at the forefront and if Britain wants to remain relevant to major world developments, then it should take heed of the concerns of other states and get involved. There is less and less tolerance internationally of the small group of wealthy nations that insist on retaining the power to destroy the world several times over.

Vast changes are taking place globally - new powers are rising and others are waning. Unanticipated political changes have restructured continents. Old certainties - and the dogmas that underpinned them - are no longer appropriate. But the thinking of our government has not caught up. Its lack of strategic perspective shows a floundering and fading power that is not stepping up to the challenges of the times.

A layer of our political elite still thinks that Britain's power and status can be secured by Cold War weapons. But others already understand that the challenges lie in climate change, hunger, injustice - and the asymmetrical warfare in varying forms that those problems will increasingly bring if unresolved. This is where the thinking of our political class needs to be. Keeping its collective head in the political and strategic sand is just not an option. □

Source:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-kate-hudson/nuclear-weapons-strategic-dead-end-b-4775325.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Follow Dr Kate Hudson on Twitter: www.twitter.com/@CNDuk



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The UK Government's Stand Against Humanitarian Disarmament

By REBECCA JOHNSON *

[February 13, 2014] -Why is the UK government boycotting a key multilateral conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons? Rebecca Johnson analyses the implications for British nuclear policy as governments and civil society convene in Mexico to take forward a new humanitarian disarmament process

Over 140 governments are gathering in Nayarit, Mexico, for the Second International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, hosted by the Mexican Government. The nations in Nayarit include most of the European Union and NATO states and the UK's Commonwealth and Non-Proliferation Treaty partners from Africa, Asia-Pacific, and of course Latin America. But the British government is officially absent. Despite strong recommendations for attendance from the Liberal Democrat side of the Coalition and a number of senior diplomats, William Hague, the British Foreign Minister, decided to follow France, Russia, the United States, Israel and North Korea in boycotting this meeting.

As one of the nine nuclear-armed states, wouldn't it be sensible for us to engage with other governments and experts such as the Red Cross, humanitarian response agencies, climate scientists and doctors in order to find out the latest research on the devastating health, environmental, economic, agricultural and developmental consequences that would result if nuclear weapons were used, either by accident or by design?

The government's main reason to boycott the Nayarit Conference is to avoid being drawn into a situation where they have to acknowledge others' concerns about the foreseeable humanitarian consequences of nuclear detonations. They understand that any realistic assessment of the global impacts will make the majority of governments want to take collective action to prohibit these weapons and demand their elimination. They've seen this happen before, with landmines and cluster munitions, as Nobel Laureate Jody Williams highlighted in a recent article.

Looking at how far the humanitarian initiative has developed since 2010, nuclear-armed states like Britain are understandably nervous that a concerted nuclear ban process would irrevocably change the legal and international context within which financial, political and operational decisions regarding nuclear weapons would be taken. But we shouldn't let them off the hook.

Humanitarian arguments to facilitate disarmament are not new. Recognition of the indiscriminate, disproportionate

and uncontrollable impacts of other weapons of mass destruction created strong incentives for banning biological and chemical weapons in 1972 and 1993 respectively. More recently, the unacceptable humanitarian harm caused by conventional weaponry became a driving motivator in successful campaigns to ban landmines and cluster munitions. When states with vested economic or military interests in these weapons obstructed efforts in established fora, cross-regional governmental and civil society coalitions bypassed the blockages and achieved effective prohibition treaties. Whether they accede or not – and many erstwhile opponents have! – all states have ended up having to change their behaviour because of the stigmatisation and restrictions placed on weapons banned under International Law.

Military and production rationales generally dominate debates about armaments. The humanitarian approach sidelines these interest groups. Pressured by civil society to find sustainable ways to prevent further human suffering caused by certain weapons, governments – eventually including the UK – turned conferences on humanitarian impacts into successful treaty negotiations. It's no secret that the humanitarian discussions in Mexico are intended to lay the groundwork for accelerating nuclear disarmament. At the UN High Level Meeting on 26 September 2013, Austria's President Heinz Fischer was pretty clear about this, saying: "Nuclear weapons should be stigmatized, banned and eliminated before they abolish us."

The nuclear-weapon states, for their part, have begun a desperate rearguard action to stop such a process from developing. When Norway convened the Oslo Conference in March 2013, they tried ignoring it. Now they do their best to dismiss it. They brief willing NGOs and media with arguments about how it's all very well to talk about humanitarian impacts "within the arms control and disarmament process" but those that want this to lead to a nuclear ban treaty don't take into account "the domestic and interstate dynamics of the nuclear weapons states, and the psychology of insecurity that surrounds their nuclear postures", as Rebecca Cousins wrote on openSecurity.

*Rebecca Johnson is the Executive Director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy and Co-Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). This article was originally published in Open Democracy.



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This is precisely what the UK government wants you to think: only nuclear-armed states can understand the complexity of the role they assign to nuclear weapons. Only they can unravel the dynamics and psychologies of their own complex relationships. Only they can undertake nuclear disarmament, at their own pace, in their own club, and very very slowly, “step by step”.

In the meantime, they need to update their nuclear forces and procure the next generation, because nuclear weapons are Really Important. How could it be possible for a bunch of countries that have already renounced nuclear weapons (the “non-nuclear-weapon states” in the Non-Proliferation Treaty) to initiate – let alone carry to fruition – a treaty that outlaws nuclear weapons operations such as use, deployment, production, transporting and stockpiling? Those activities are not covered by the NPT, and so they are deemed to be the UK’s right to continue, as long as leaders express rhetorical commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons at least once every five years! In other words, nuclear weapons are solely the business of the states that wield them, and, apart from showing up at NPT meetings, the rest of the world should shut up.

These are the considerations that Cousins thinks the humanitarian disarmament strategists have failed to take into account. On the contrary. Since those attitudes justify and promote perpetual nuclear weapons modernisation and proliferation, humanitarian disarmament strategies recognise the need to bypass them. Stuck in cold war military dependencies, these are the problem psychologies that ignore the real security concerns of today’s world and perpetuates nuclear business as usual, with all the attendant risks.

The humanitarian strategy recognises how irrational such narratives are, and also how embedded in the policies of the nuclear-armed states. A nuclear ban process will not be comfortable for Britain because it refuses to feed into those weapons-clinging narratives. Mobilising domestic civil society actors as well as states, it aims at helping nuclear-dependent governments to confront the circular logic that perpetuates nuclear possession and proliferation. New possibilities for disarmament and security open up when the legal and political context is changed through a multilateral nuclear ban.

For a while longer the UK will try to ignore and dismiss the humanitarian approach. At present, with all three of the major parliamentary parties committed to replacing Trident, mainstream politicians and media seem incapable of looking beyond the wrangling over how many nuclear ‘platforms’ the UK can afford, and whether a particular

version of deterrence doctrine requires that at least one nuclear-armed submarine must be on continuous at-sea ‘deterrent’ patrol (CASD) at all times. With Scotland’s independence referendum scheduled for September 2014, there are also some media discussions about what would happen if an independent Scotland carries out the Scottish National Party’s manifesto commitment to demand removal of the submarines and warheads from Faslane and Coulport, where they are currently based.

Those are the peculiarly domestic preoccupations of the British. For mainstream media, the idea that nuclear-free nations may take the lead and ban nuclear weapons in the near future, with or without the nuclear armed states, is barely acknowledged. Behind the scenes, however, the government is taking it very seriously.

Imagine, for example, how the British debate on replacing Trident would be changed if an international nuclear ban treaty is on the books. Would we still be debating arcane “angels on a pinhead” doctrines and CASD? Unlikely. Instead we might find the Ministry of Defence quietly enhancing the rest of the tools we have in the political, military and diplomatic toolbox for deterrence.

Even if the government declares its unequivocal opposition to joining an international nuclear ban treaty, how many MPs would be left arguing for billions of pounds to be spent on renewing a weapons system that the rest of the world had prohibited? As Jody Williams and others have noted, experience from past treaties shows that public and international pressure can turn adamant opposition one day into enthusiastic endorsement the next. Especially once the treaty nears completion.

As the humanitarian initiative goes forward into its next stage, putting the spotlight back on Europe, even the possibility of a nuclear ban treaty is likely to cause a fundamental rethink about British nuclear policy. Regardless of whether the price tag for Trident replacement is calculated as close to £100 billion, as CND, Greenpeace and the Liberal Democrats have calculated, or the ridiculously low £20 billion figure that is evoked by nuclear proponents, it would be prudent not to rush ahead with Trident expenditure until the prospects of the current humanitarian initiatives become clearer.

As the rest of the world gets more serious about banning nuclear weapons on humanitarian grounds, it will become much harder for anyone to keep funding, making and deploying these WMD, and any use would be recognised as a crime against humanity. At the very least that is worth a try! ☐

Read more articles on the case for nuclear disarmament on 50.50’s platform Towards nuclear non-proliferation ☐



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NATO and Russia Caught in New Nuclear Arms Race



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

By JULIO GODOY*

BERLIN (IDN) - The U.S. government is unofficially accusing Russia of violating the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, by flight testing two-stage ground-based cruise missile RS-26.

Although the U.S. government has not officially commented on the alleged Russian violation of the INF, which prohibits both countries to producing, testing and deploying ballistic and cruise missiles, and land-based missiles of medium (1,000 to 5,500 kilometres) and short (500 to 1,000 kilometres) range, high ranking members of the government in Washington have been leaking information to U.S. media, in a moment of particular tense relations with Moscow. [P]

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'Now Is The Time' For Middle East Nuke-Free Zone

Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

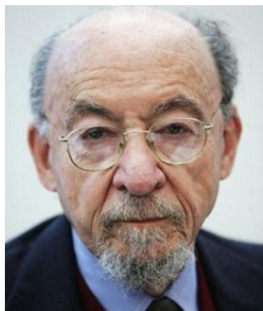
By JAYA RAMACHADRAN

BERLIN (IDN) - The eminent Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has revived the issue of a Middle East nuclear weapon-free zone (NWFZ), first proposed in 1962. Discussions on the subject have been frozen since the last quarter of 2012, when a planned United Nations conference on the region came to naught in the face of Israel's opposition.



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Nuclear Disarmament, the State of Play



Nuclear Abolition Viewpoint

By PETER WEISS*

NEW YORK (IPS) - If psychosis is a loss of contact with reality, the current status of nuclear disarmament can best be described as psychotic.

On the one hand, the nuclear issue is beginning to creep out from under the rug where it has lain dormant for several decades. On the other hand, the commitment of the nuclear weapon states to a nuclear weapons-free world is honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

Let us begin by adding up the pluses and the minuses of nuclear disarmament. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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